

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05

/089 W

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R 261834Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 666

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7350

FOR ASST SECY MAYNES FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: CO, XM, ILO

SUBJ: VIEWS OF THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR CHARRY SAMPER ON THE ILO

AND U.S. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE G-77

1. I MET WITH THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR, MR. HECTOR CHARRY SAMPER ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1977. HE HAD ASKED TO SEE MEN BECAUSE HE IS NOW CHAIRMAN OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL GROUP OF THE G-77. THE GROUP HAD MET ON MONDAY AND HE WANTED TO COMMUNICATE ITS STRONG EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT "THE CARTER GOVERNMENT" WOULD CONTINUE TO SHOW ITS COMMITMENT TO THE U.N. AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY REMAINING IN THE ILO "WHERE THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD TRULY SEPARATE US AMERICANS."

2. WE HAD A GENERAL CONVERSATION WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT. HE EXPRESSED THE RESENTMENT AMONG LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT SOME OF THEIR MEMBERS WERE BEING MADE SCAPEGOATS IN THE STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE HUMAN
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RIGHTS. THE AMBASSADOR CAREFULLY POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD LONG BEEN A DEFENDER OF HUMANITARIAN VALUES AND AN OPPONENT OF DICTATORSHIPS, BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR HIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO ACCEPT THE RELENTLESS CRITICISM AGAINST SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHILE AMIN AND EMPEROR BOKASA WERE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THEIR BRUTAL OPPRESSION

WITHOUT ANY INTERNATIONAL REPRISALS. HE WOULD AGREE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE OF UNIVERSAL CONCERN, BUT AS LONG AS THE DECISION TO CRITICIZE SPECIFIC COUNTRIES IS BASED ON SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTES RATHER THAN OBJECTIVE CRITERIA IT IS CLEAR THAT THE CRITICISM WILL HAVE A HEAVY POLITICAL EDGE.

3. HE SAID THAT LATIN AMERICAN NEEDS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT CONCENTRATE ITS ATTENTION SOLELY ON LATIN AMERICA, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE U.S. TO UNDERSTAND THE LATIN AMERICAN FEELING OF ISOLATION. EUROPE IS CONCENTRATING ON AFRICA AND ASIA, GIVING COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE TO THOSE AREAS WHICH ARE IN COMPETITION WITH THE LATIN AMERICANS. HE CITED THIS AS AN ADDITIONAL REASON WHY STRONG IDENTIFICATION OF THE U.S. WITH LATIN AMERICANS IS NECESSARY. HE POINTED OUT THAT COLOMBIA HAD SUPPORTED THE UNITED STATES AT THE 1977 ILO CONFERENCE. BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND CHILE WERE IN OPPOSITION TO US AS AN EXPRESSION OF THEIR OWN ANGER REGARDING U.S. ATTACKS ON THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.

4. THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE THE NEXT CHAIRMAN OF THE G-77 GROUP (THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEXT REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO BE CUBA). HE REPEATED WHAT I HAVE HEARD FROM EVERY REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA THAT THE ILO PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED INTELLIGENTLY IF THE U.S. WILL SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE RESTRUCTURING QUESTION. HE EXPRESSED RESENTMENT THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST INTRUDE THEMSELVES IN EVERY INTERNATIONAL FORUM. HE HAS TOLD THE ARAB REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD HANDLE THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHOULD BE LEFT TO DO THEIR SUBSTANTIVE WORK. ALTHOUGH THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TRY TO FIND UNITY THERE WERE OTHER LOYALTIES AND SELF-INTEREST THAT OCCASIONED IMPORTANT DISAGREEMENTS AMONG THEM. FOR EXAMPLE, VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIVE TO OPEC PRESSURES RATHER THAN THE NEED FOR UNITY IN THEIR REGIONAL GROUP. HE BELIEVES THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY WILL HELP THE AMERICAN POSITION SIGNIFICANTLY AMONG LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS ON THE ILO AS WELL AS OTHER

MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. HE INVITED ME TO MEET
AGAIN TO DISCUSS THE WORKINGS OF THE G-77 GROUP.
I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT MEETING.VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA07350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770310-0443
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770820/aaaaaqew.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4977e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1476089
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS OF THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR CHARRY SAMPER ON THE ILO AND U.S. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE G-77
TAGS: PORG, CO, XM, US, ILO, (SAMPER, CHARRY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4977e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009